

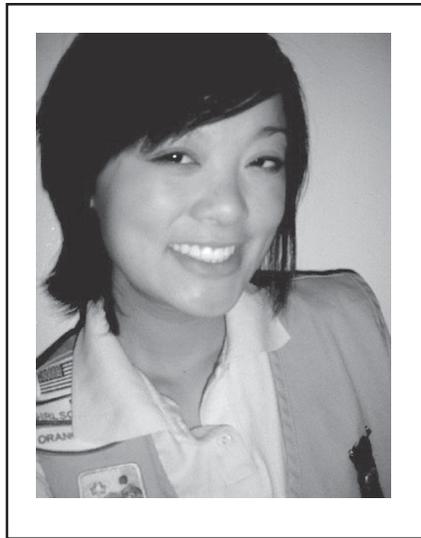
# "VIETNAMESE GIRL SCOUTS"

When I first joined Girl Scouts, I had no idea what I was getting into. I thought that GS would be a weekly meeting, full of crafts, giggles, and other assorted, frilly, girly things. Little did I know that being a part of Truong Son would entail rigorous hikes, roughing it out in the wild, memorization of scouting essentials, and a knowledge of ceremony and pomp. Had I known all this when I first registered to be a Junior Girl Scout, I doubt I would have given the program the benefit of the doubt.

Although "American Girl Scouts" was what I expected when I entered the troop, I got "Vietnamese Girl Scouts". I expected knitting, sleepovers, and cookies before bedtime, and instead, what I got was knotting, sleeping bags, and crickets before lights out. One would think this was horrible, but now that I look back on it, Vietnamese Girl Scouts is a part of who I am. Not only do I get the benefit of being an active part of the community, but I have also maintained my connection with Vietnamese culture. Nowadays, it is too easy for youth to get caught up in American society; however, Truong Son has kept me in touch with the traditions that my parents grew up with.

When I look at my peers, I observe that some of them choose

the wrong path in life. In their search for self-fulfillment and excitement, they lose their morals and their sense of reality as well. It is in this way that Girl Scouts keeps me in check. By coming to



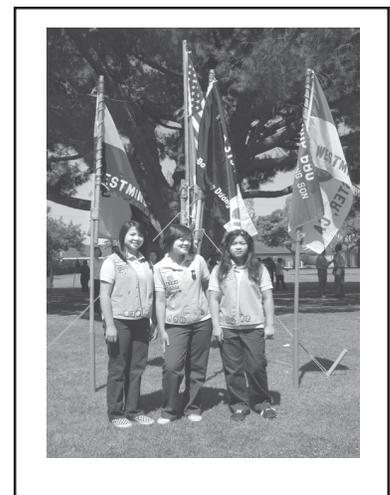
Girl Scouts every week, I realize that there is more to life than just my personal problems; there is an entire world full of trouble. Through my volunteering, I am reminded that humankind still has a long way to come, and that I must do my best to help us learn from our mistakes. I have realized that we must do our best to help our community, and I am proud to be in an organization that can help me do such. It makes me feel wonderful to help others and do my part.

The memories that I've had and the relationships I've forged are also very noteworthy. Through

Truong Son, I believe I have gained a second family. My fellow Girl Scouts are like sisters to me; always there, no matter what (whether I like it or not!). They are my only childhood friends; I have known them since forever, and it actually did take forever to establish such a close relationship with them. We built trust and respect, and in doing so, created countless memories—sleepovers, camps, events, festivals. I wouldn't trade those memories for the world.

And yes, things have changed since the first day I set foot in our quaint little Gillespie Park. But I don't mind. No matter how "tacky" and "embarrassing" Girl Scouts may seem to others outside of the loop, it's in my blood and I couldn't be prouder.

*Julie Dinh – Senior 5194*





*Senior 5194*



*Annie - Kim Thảo - Maryann*



*Tham dự Lễ kỷ niệm Bà Triệu  
- Diana vai bà Triệu Ấu*



*Diana - Mindy - Lilian Gold Award*



*Senior bonding*



*Thi đua cứu thương*

